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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,783	06/27/2003	Tertius F. Dreyer	4000-3	9701
23117	7590	04/27/2005	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 1100 N GLEBE ROAD 8TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714			RIDLEY, RICHARD	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3651	

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/606,783 	DREYER, TERTIUS F. Richard Ridley
	Examiner	Art Unit
		3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 19-43 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 19-43 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 19, 28, 36, 42, 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 19, 28, 36, 42, 43 are unclear in reciting "A conveyor idler having...a conveyor belt". As the claim is generally narrative in form, the exact limitations to be given patentable weight are unclear. Does the conveyor idler have/comprise a conveyor belt? As written the claim is unclear. Perhaps the invention is drawn to an apparatus or system that *comprises* an idler and a conveyor belt.

The examiner suggests rewriting the claim in accordance with CFR 1.75(i), where each element of the claim is be separated by a line indentation.

Additionally, the examiner suggests clearly separating the preamble from the body of the claim, through use of a colon, so as to aid in clarifying those elements that are to be given patentable weight.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 19-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagerman et al. USP 4314631 in view of Maurer USP 4548316.

Hagerman disclose a similar device comprising a (n):

- Idler (32) having an outer surface and an inner surface (C2/L39-42)
- Conveyor belt (12)
- Shaft (36)
- Frame (fig. 1)
- Braking mechanism (C2/L39-42) for preventing the idler from rotating in the reverse direction

While Hagerman does indeed disclose a braking mechanism inside the idler (32), he does not disclose the Braking mechanism comprising at least one brake element which can move between a first position in which the idler can rotate in the forward direction, and a second position in which the brake element prevents the idler from rotating in the reverse direction.

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Mauer teaches the use of a similar braking mechanism (fig. 5) comprising at least one brake element (62) for the purpose of providing for a means to provide for a one-way clutch that prevents reverse rotation of a roller (abstract)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have employed the use of a brake element, as taught by Mauer, in the device of Hagerman for the purpose of providing for a means to provide for a one-way clutch that prevents reverse rotation of a roller.

Re clms 20-27, 29-35, 37-41 it would have been obvious to have employed the use of a brake guide secured to a shaft, brake guide having an outer surface with a plurality of recess each having a brake surface, said brake element is a ball bearing or a roller bearing, a key and keyway, in view of Mauer who teaches a brake guide (61) secured to a shaft (60), brake guide having an outer surface with a plurality of recess (brake element 62 sits in recess) each having a brake surface (65), said brake element (62) is a ball bearing or a roller bearing, and also teaches a key and keyway (fig. 5) for the purpose of providing for a means to prevent reverse directional movement of a roller.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Ridley whose telephone number is (571) 272-6917. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (571) 272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Richard Ridley
14 April 2005

Richard Ridley
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3651